Award of 1492-1517 MHz spectrum for mobile services

Consultation on Ofcom's proposed competition assessment

Consultation

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1. Overview

1.1 In this consultation we set out our provisional competition assessment for the award of spectrum in the 1492-1517 MHz band.

1.2 We consulted on our general proposals for the award of 1492-1517 MHz spectrum for mobile services in February 2025. The spectrum has been internationally harmonised for 'supplementary downlink' ("**SDL"**).[1] We expect that if mobile network operators ("**MNOs**") deploy the upper block of the 1.4 GHz band in their networks, consumers will see improved coverage quality, speeds and performance in locations where coverage relies on low frequency spectrum – for example deeper indoors, at the edges of macrocells and in rural areas.

1.3 In our February 2025 consultation, we proposed to award the block for International Mobile Telecommunications ("**IMT**") services through a sealed bid single round auction with a second price rule. We also proposed to set limits on mobile network transmission power in some locations, which would be relaxed after an initial period. We acknowledged that spectrum holdings are important to downstream competition in the mobile market, and that this downstream competition is impacted by MNOs' upstream spectrum holdings. These factors are typically analysed in an award's competition assessment.

1.4 However, we decided to delay consulting on this award's competition assessment, because we believed the anticipated merger between Vodafone Limited (trading as Vodafone UK) and Hutchison 3G UK Limited ('the **merger**')[2] could impact the competition assessment.

1.5 In particular, if the merger completed, the possible number of bidders in the award would reduce from four MNOs to three and the merger parties would have combined spectrum holdings. In addition, the merger parties had agreed to trade spectrum to VMO2 on completion of the merger.

1.6 Since our February 2025 consultation, the merger has completed, and the merger parties requested a trade of certain spectrum holdings to VMO2, including some of their holdings in the central part of the 1.4 GHz band, which we consented to on 4 July 2025. This competition assessment takes account of these changes.[3]

What we are proposing – in brief

Overall, we provisionally conclude that, given the relatively small amount of spectrum we are awarding and the technical capabilities of the spectrum, there are unlikely to be award outcomes that would have a negative effect on competition in the mobile market. Furthermore, the release of additional spectrum in this auction may help spur network competition between MNOs. We are therefore not proposing to include competition measures in the award.

[1] This means that it can only be used for 'downlink' purposes (i.e. for transmitting data from a base station to a user's device).
[2] The merger is a JV between Vodafone Group Plc and CK Hutchison Holdings Limited in relation to their UK business (i.e. Vodafone Limited and Hutchinson 3G UK Limited)
[3] Ofcom's impact assessment of the trade has been published on our Spectrum Trades page.

2. Background

2.1 We are planning to award the 1492-1517 MHz frequency band for mobile use. The 1492-1517 MHz frequency band is designated for supplementary downlink-only.[4] In February 2025 we published a consultation on the award of the upper block of the 1.4 GHz band (1492-1517 MHz) for 4G and 5G mobile use.

2.2 In line with our statutory duty to promote competition in relevant markets where appropriate,[5] one of our objectives for this award is to ensure that consumers and businesses in the UK continue to benefit from strong competition in the provision of mobile services. However, we did not include a competition assessment in the February 2025 consultation because we believed that the anticipated merger between Vodafone Limited (trading as Vodafone UK) and Hutchison 3G UK Limited could impact that assessment. In particular, the number of bidders and the distribution of their spectrum holdings are key components of our competition assessment and the merger, if completed, would likely change this.

2.3 Firstly, as a result of the merger, the likely number of bidders in the auction would reduce from four to three. Secondly, the distribution of spectrum would be impacted by the merger completing in two ways: (a) the merger parties would have combined rather than separate spectrum holdings, and (b) subject to completion of the merger, the merged entity had agreed to trade spectrum held by Vodafone to VMO2.[6]

2.4 Since our February 2025 consultation, the Competition and Markets Authority accepted Final Undertakings on 28 March 2025 ”for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing the [substantial lessening of competition (SLCs)] it has identified in the Report and any adverse effects arising from those SLCs”.[7] The merger completed on 31 May 2025. The merged entity is now known as VodafoneThree.

2.5 The details of the proposed transfer of spectrum licences from Vodafone to VMO2 were published on 18 June 2025 and Ofcom consented on 4 July 2025.[8] The details are set out below.

[4] European Commission decision 2018/661 designated the 1492-1517 MHz frequency band for supplementary downlink-only mobile use.
[5] Section 3(1) of the Communications Act 2003.
[6] CMA, Vodafone/CK Hutchinson JV merger inquiry; Virgin Media O2 press release, 3 July 2024. The trade is between Vodafone Limited and Telefonica UK Limited.
[7] CMA, Notice of Acceptance of Final Undertakings pursuant to section 82 of the Enterprise Act 2002, p.2
[8] Ofcom, Spectrum trades. It often takes time for the actual use of spectrum bands at physical sites to change due to necessary equipment adjustments, etc. In this case the firms also intend to make transfers to defragment the 2100 MHz band. This is in addition to the trade between Vodafone and VMO2 in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band, which was agreed after the 2021 spectrum auction. During this transition, Ofcom issues concurrent licenses for the spectrum bands to both operators. As our competition assessment is forward looking, we use the spectrum assignments as they will be at the end of this process i.e. after the completion of the trades Ofcom consented to on 4 July 2025.

Table 2.1: Spectrum traded from Vodafone to VMO2

Spectrum band	Amount of spectrum (MHz)
1.4 GHz	20
2.1 GHz	18.8
Unpaired 2.6 GHz	25
3.4-3.8 GHz	20
Total	**83.8**

2.6 The below table shows VodafoneThree and VMO2's pre-trade and post-trade total spectrum holdings in MHz.[9]

Table 2.2: VodafoneThree and VMO2's pre-trade and post-trade total spectrum holdings[10]

	Pre-trade	Post-trade
MNO	**MHz**	
VodafoneThree	520.5	436.7
VMO2	251.4	335.2

2.7 Our competition assessment for the 1.4 GHz award is based on the operators' post-trade spectrum holdings.

[9] As stated in footnote 8, as our competition assessment is forward looking, we use the spectrum assignments as they will be at the end of this process.

[10] Pre-trade holdings calculated using the spectrum licenses published on our website, excluding the unpaired 2100 MHz band, which has a revocation notice, and Hutchison 3G's holdings under UK Broadband Ltd. in the 3.9 GHz band. For the 2.6 GHz band post-trade holdings are VodafoneThree 40 MHz and VMO2 50 MHz, including restricted power licences.

3. Our assessment

Approach to the competition assessment

3.1 Our consultation on the award of the 1497 – 1517 MHz band provides an overview of the main UK legislative provisions that are also relevant to this consultation.[11] Our principal duty in section 3(1) of the Communications Act 2003 (the Communications Act) is to further the interests of citizens and consumers, where appropriate by promoting competition. We also have various duties which explicitly refer to competition including:

a) section 3(4)(b) of the Communications Act which requires Ofcom, in performing our duties, to have regard to the desirability of promoting competition;
b) section 4(2) of the Communications Act which requires Ofcom to act in accordance with the requirement to promote competition in communications markets; and
c) section 3(2)(d) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 which requires Ofcom to have regard to the desirability of promoting competition in the provision of electronic communications services.

3.2 The approach to our assessment is outlined below:

a) **Competitive effects and theories of harm:** Identifying any spectrum allocations arising from the auction which might give rise to competition concerns ('theories of harm') i.e. distributions of spectrum holdings that could weaken future competition in mobile markets. We also consider the potential severity of the effect on competition if these outcomes were to occur.
b) **Likelihood of competition concerns arising:** Considering how likely it is that these outcomes would arise as a result of participants' behaviour in the auction in the absence of any competition measures.
c) **Potential competition measures:** Where there is a strong likelihood of such a competition concern arising, we would then set out our assessment of possible competition measures which we could impose to address our concerns (e.g. spectrum caps).

3.3 In assessing the competitive effects of an award, we consider the potential implications of particular award outcomes. For example, an operator winning a large amount of spectrum (for instance, up to the 25 MHz we are considering making available) or an operator failing to acquire enough spectrum to continue being a credible competitor.

3.4 In particular, we have considered four potential theories of harm in our assessment:

a) **Unmatchable product advantage:** An MNO achieving an unmatchable competitive advantage, such as a greater ability to introduce new services without affecting existing services, resulting in an unbalanced market and reduced competition in the longer term.
b) **Spectrum hoarding:** This is where one MNO holds a large amount of spectrum it does not need, and which other MNOs could have used more effectively.
c) **Unmatchable cost advantage:** An MNO with a large share of spectrum holdings being able to respond aggressively if its rivals seek to lower prices, by having an inherent cost

[11] See Annex A5

advantage, which other MNOs cannot match. This could deter rivals from lowering prices in the first place.[12]

d) **Weakened incumbent:** An MNO not having sufficient mobile spectrum to be a credible competitor.

3.5 We also consider the likelihood of such outcomes arising from the auction, including the likelihood of one or more participants bidding strategically to put their rivals at a competitive disadvantage in the provision of mobile services. In turn, depending on the likelihood of such outcome, we could consider possible competition measures to prevent such outcomes from materialising.

Responses to our CFI and February 2025 consultation

3.6 BT/EE commented on competition measures in response to our Call for Input ("CFI") in October 2023. No other stakeholder commented on competition measures.

3.7 BT/EE said that the uncertainty around the proposed Vodafone/H3G merger and potential need for competition measures as a result meant that our consultation was arguably premature. BT highlighted that the outcome of the proposed merger and any possible changes in spectrum holdings that may be required as part of this process would be highly relevant for this competition assessment.

3.8 In the responses to our February 2025 consultation, BT/EE said that:

"(…) Ofcom is yet to publish a competition assessment for this proposed 1400 MHz SDL spectrum award and consult on possible measures to be included in the design of the award to promote competition. We note this could also have a bearing on the final auction design, including bid options and limits to spectrum holdings."

3.9 It also stated that it believed that:

"(…) a competition assessment should evaluate operator shares of both spectrum and mobile capacity in low band, as well as the potential risk to competition from significantly unbalanced positions following the auction. Additionally, Ofcom should consider the impact of cost differences between operators in deploying 1400 MHz when factoring in likely bid outcomes and scenarios. BT may comment further when responding to the auction design questions and Ofcom's competition assessment."

3.10 Taking into account these comments from BT/EE, and as explained above, we decided to delay consulting on our competition assessment for this award until the outcome of the Vodafone UK/H3G merger was published, including the spectrum trades between VodafoneThree and VMO2.

3.11 In the assessment set out below we have evaluated operator shares of spectrum in low band. Consistent with our previous assessments for the 700 and 3.6-3.8 spectrum bands,[13] we continue to consider that the asymmetry in low frequency shares does not present a competition concern as all operators have at least some low frequency spectrum and are able to provide good quality coverage. We also note that in that award BT/EE won sub-1500

[12] For example, competitors could expect that any attempt by them to lower prices would be matched or surpassed by the operator with a cost advantage, thereby deterring them from doing so in the first place.
[13] Ofcom, Award of the 700 MHz and 3.6-3.8 GHz spectrum bands, paragraph 4.112

spectrum and the asymmetry between operators is now lower than it was when we carried out the competition assessment for that award.

3.12 We have not assessed shares of mobile capacity because we consider that analysing the share of MHz is sufficient as a proxy for capacity and network abilities.

3.13 We have not considered cost differences in deploying the spectrum between operators. We would expect that bidders will have different valuations for the spectrum and that these may be partly driven, among others, by differences in the cost of deploying the spectrum. However, such differences in spectrum valuations are precisely what the auction seeks to uncover in order to achieve the most efficient spectrum allocation.

Context for the assessment

3.14 Amongst other factors, the assessment depends on MNOs' total spectrum holdings, how this could change as a result of the incremental amount of spectrum being awarded, and the technical capabilities of the spectrum. For example:

a) An incumbent mobile operator is unlikely to be weakened by a competitor winning a relatively small amount of incremental spectrum.
b) If the spectrum frequency in the award is key to being able to deliver an important new service, then the risk to competition from an unbalanced allocation of spectrum may be higher.

3.15 Below we provide the context for the assessment, setting out the analysis of total spectrum shares that could arise from the award, the possible change in spectrum shares, and a brief analysis of the technical capabilities of the spectrum we propose to award. We then use this information in our assessment of the theories of harm in the following sub-section.

Spectrum shares and increment

3.16 We first consider the total spectrum holdings and the relative amount of incremental spectrum in this award.

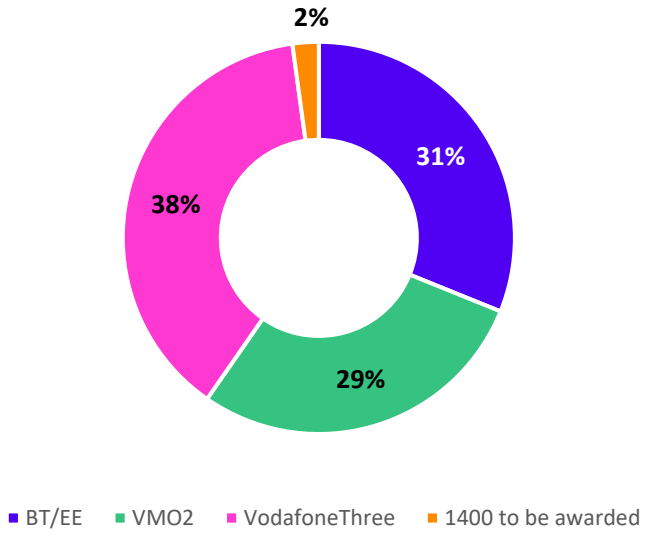
3.17 The 1.4 GHz spectrum we propose to award is a small share of the overall spectrum available for use by MNOs. Prior to this award MNOs had been allocated 1,131.9 MHz[14] of mobile spectrum, which includes 249.6 MHz of sub 1500 MHz spectrum.[15]

[14] Including the paired 700, 800, 900, 1800, 2100, 2600 bands; unpaired 2300, 2600 and 3410-3800 MHz bands; and the SDL bands at 700 and 1400 bands. Note the unpaired 2100 band has been excluded as Ofcom has issued a revocation notice. Spectrum holdings in 3.4-3.8 GHz band for Vodafone and VMO2 taken as 90 MHz and 80 MHz respectively, before the planned trade.

[15] Spectrum below 1 GHz (i.e. 700 MHz, 800 MHz and 900 MHz) is generally considered to fall within the category of low frequency spectrum, which is particularly well suited to provide coverage, including deeper indoor coverage. However, in the analysis that we carried out for the 2020 statement for our award of the 700 MHz and 3.6-3.8 GHz bands, we concluded that the 1400 MHz band should also be considered to be low frequency spectrum. Our assessment was that deployments of 1400 MHz would have the ability to cover indoor areas broadly comparable to those of sub-1 GHz bands and significantly higher than mid-frequency bands, i.e. 1800 MHz and above. See in particular paragraph A8.31 of annex 8 of the 2020 statement for the Award of the 700 MHz and 3.6-3.8 GHz spectrum bands.

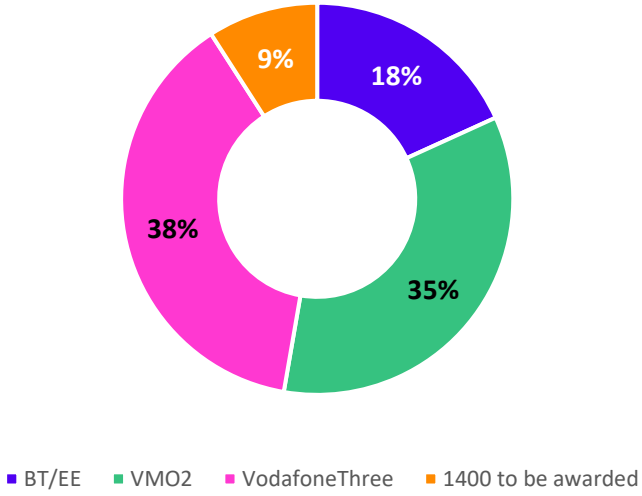
3.18 Figure 3.1 below shows that the award of the upper block of the 1.4 GHz band would represent a small share (approximately 2%) of the total amount of available mobile spectrum.

Figure 3.1: MNOs' overall mobile spectrum holdings and spectrum to be awarded[16]



3.19 Figure 3.2 below shows that the award will represent approximately 9% of the available sub-1500 MHz mobile spectrum.

Figure 3.2: Spectrum to be awarded and MNO's share of sub-1500 MHz mobile spectrum



3.20 If the award results in the maximum possible 25 MHz being awarded to one MNO then the largest spectrum share could increase from 38% to 40% (VodafoneThree), and the largest share of sub-1500 MHz spectrum could increase from 38% to 47% (VodafoneThree).

[16] Spectrum holdings taken from Ofcom's licensing system, published on our website. Where the 3.4-3.8 GHz band spectrum is concurrently licensed until December 2025 it has been included only in the final operator's holdings, as this is a forward-looking assessment. The spectrum trades in table 2.1 above have been accounted for. The unpaired 2.1 GHz band has been excluded as Ofcom has revoked the mobile operators' licences.

Technical capabilities

3.21 In addition to spectrum shares, technical capabilities of the 1492-1517 MHz band relevant to our assessment of the theories of harm are:

a) The spectrum is supplementary downlink and therefore must be paired with other spectrum to be useable. It is not directly comparable with MNOs' paired spectrum holdings, which can be used for both downlink and uplink. Therefore, it would be complementary to MNOs' current holdings as it would enable increased download traffic in areas which benefit from low frequency spectrum, for example, deeper indoors, at the edges of macrocells and in rural areas.
b) The band is not key to unlocking any new services or technology. As far as we are aware, it will be used to improve the quality of existing mobile coverage, rather than enabling new services. The centre block of 1.4 GHz which has already been licenced to MNOs is currently being used to improve network performance and we would expect this additional block to be used in a similar manner.[17]
c) As per our February 2025 consultation, we expect there to be restrictions during Phase 1, which will limit the ability to fully use the band until the start of Phase 2.
d) The ecosystem of mobile handsets that can use this spectrum is immature but growing. 1432-1517 MHz has been supported in some major handsets, such as the iPhone and Samsung Galaxy, for the last 2-3 years.[18]

Competition assessment

3.22 We now assess the theories of harm against the evidence on the amount of incremental spectrum in this award and the technical capabilities of the 1492-1517 MHz band:

a) **Unmatchable product advantage:** Our provisional view is that the maximum 25 MHz to be awarded is not sufficient spectrum to enable the introduction of an unmatchable new product, although we expect it to be used to improve quality of coverage. This spectrum is SDL, which must be paired with another low-frequency band and, as such, it is unlikely that this band on its own will allow for new services to be launched or to improve the quality of an MNO's coverage to an extent that it would give it an unmatchable advantage.
b) **Spectrum hoarding:** We consider that there is little incentive for an MNO to use this spectrum award to claim spectrum it does not need. This is a small addition to the total amount of available mobile spectrum for MNOs – an increase of approximately 2% – and responses to our October call for input suggested multiple stakeholders may be interested.[19] We expect that this interest stems from the intention to deploy the spectrum rather than strategic considerations, as the spectrum to be awarded is a small share of any operator's current holdings, and preventing a competitor from using it will provide no great strategic advantage. Furthermore, those who purchase the spectrum

[17] Vodafone response to our October 2023 Call for Input, Q1; H3G 2019 announcement of its plans to deploy 1.4 GHz frequencies on a nationwide basis.
[18] Currently 174 user device models support 1432-1517 MHz. This is an increase from 72 in 2023 and 18 in 2022. It has also been supported in some major handsets for the last 2-3 years, including the iPhone (15, 16) and Samsung Galaxy (S22, S23, S24). Global Mobile Suppliers Association's Analyser for Mobile Broadband Data ("Gambod"), accessed 24 January 2025.
[19] Section 8 Auction Design of the Award of 1492-1517 MHz spectrum for mobile services consultation.

will have made an investment and they will only obtain a return on this investment by deploying it.

c) **Unmatchable cost advantage:** Our analysis of the potential differences in spectrum shares above suggests that this small amount of spectrum is unlikely to make a material difference in spectrum holdings and, therefore, to the costs to rolling out an MNO's network.

d) **Weakened incumbent:** Our analysis above finds that, under any potential award outcome, all three MNOs will have sufficient amounts of spectrum, including sub 1500 MHz spectrum, to remain competitive.

3.23 For past awards we have considered the need for competition measures based on total spectrum share thresholds, namely that a share above 37% or below 10-15% would indicate possible competition concerns.[20] However, we note that these thresholds were determined based on a four-MNO market and, therefore, they are no longer appropriate in a market with three MNOs.

3.24 We also note that we have previously refrained from imposing competition measures based on possible asymmetries in low frequency spectrum.[21] Additionally, the 1.4 GHz spectrum we are considering is downlink only and is used to complement operators' other low frequency holdings but is not substitutable with them. Our provisional view is that differences in sub-1500 MHz spectrum are unlikely to impair competition.

3.25 For the reasons set out above, we provisionally consider that the risk to competition which might arise from this award is relatively low. Moreover, we note that, apart from acquiring more spectrum, MNOs can increase their coverage by deploying their current spectrum holdings more extensively.

Conclusion and next steps

3.26 Overall, our provisional conclusion is that it would be unnecessary to include competition measures in this award because the evidence suggests that the risk to competition from any outcome in this award is low.

3.27 Following this consultation period, Ofcom plans to publish a detailed statement on our proposals for making the upper block of 1.4 GHz spectrum available.

Consultation questions

Question 1: Do you agree with our assessment of these competition concerns, and our view that there is no need for specific competition measures? Please give reasons supported by evidence when providing your answers.

The overview section in this document is a simplified high-level summary only. The proposals we are consulting on and our reasoning are set out in the full document.

[20] For example, paragraphs 5.79 to 5.123 of our December 2018 consultation for the award of the 700 MHz and 3.6-3.8 GHz bands.

[21] See paragraph 4.113 of our March 2020 statement for the award of the 700 MHz and 3.6-3.8 GHz bands.

A1. Impact assessments

Impact assessment

A1.1 Section 7 of the Communications Act requires us to carry out and publish an assessment of the likely impact of implementing a proposal which would be likely to have a significant impact on businesses or the general public, or when there is a major change in Ofcom's activities.

A1.2 More generally, impact assessments form part of good policy making, and we therefore expect to carry them out in relation to a large majority of our proposals. We use impact assessments to help us understand and assess the potential impact of our policy decisions before we make them. They also help us explain the policy decisions we have decided to take and why we consider those decisions best fulfil our applicable duties and objectives in the least intrusive way. Our impact assessment guidance sets out our general approach to how we assess and present the impact of our proposed decisions.

A1.3 The impact assessment in our consultation on the award of 1492-1517 MHz spectrum for mobile services sets out our main policy proposals and the effects we expect them to have on UK citizens, consumers and businesses.[22]

A1.4 This document (in particular the analysis in Section 3) explains why we consider our proposed award of the 1492-1517 MHz band is unlikely to have an adverse impact on competition. It explains our provisional view that the risk to competition arising from this award is low and that implementing competition measures is therefore unnecessary. As a result, we have provisionally decided not to implement any specific competition measures in this award which we consider is a positive outcome for UK mobile industry network operators and consumers.

Equality impact assessment

A1.5 We have given careful consideration to whether our proposal will have a particular impact on persons sharing protected characteristics (broadly including race, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership and religion or belief in the UK and also dependents and political opinion in Northern Ireland), and in particular whether they may discriminate against such persons or impact on equality of opportunity or good relations. This assessment helps us comply with our duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the Northern Ireland Act 1998.[23]

A1.6 As this is a proposal to take no specific action due to not identifying any competition concerns in relation to the award of 1492-1517 MHz spectrum, we do not consider that our proposal will affect any specific groups of persons (including persons that share protected characteristics under the 2010 Act or the 1998 Act) differently to the general population. The potential impacts of the overall award are considered in that consultation.

[22] See, in particular paragraphs A5.34 – A5.48 of our February consultation.

[23] Further detail is set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

A1.7 Ofcom can provide information in a variety of formats on request, e.g. accessible PDF, large print, easy read, audio recording or braille. If you let us know what information you require and in what format, we will consider the request and respond within 21 days.

Welsh language

A1.8 The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 made the Welsh language an officially recognised language in Wales. This legislation also led to the establishment of the office of the Welsh Language Commissioner who regulates and monitors our work. Ofcom is required to take Welsh language considerations into account when formulating, reviewing or revising policies which are relevant to Wales (including proposals which are not targeted at Wales specifically but are of interest across the UK).

A1.9 Where the Welsh Language Standards are engaged, we consider the potential impact of a policy proposal on (i) opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language; and (ii) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language. We also consider how a proposal could be formulated so as to have, or increase, a positive impact, or not to have adverse effects or to decrease any adverse effects.

A1.10 We do not consider our proposal has any impact on our Welsh language obligations.

A2. Responding to this consultation

How to respond

A2.1 Ofcom would like to receive views and comments on the issues raised in this document, by 5pm on 12 September 2025.

A2.2 You can download a response form from https://www.ofcom.org.uk/spectrum/innovative-use-of-spectrum/call-for-input-1.4-ghz-band-available-for-mobile. You can return this by email or post to the address provided in the response form.

A2.3 If your response is a large file, or has supporting charts, tables or other data, please email it to 1.4GHz.authorisation@ofcom.org.uk, as an attachment in Microsoft Word format, together with the cover sheet.

A2.4 Responses may alternatively be posted to the address below, marked with the title of the consultation:

Spectrum Awards
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA

A2.5 We welcome responses in formats other than print, for example an audio recording or a British Sign Language video. To respond in BSL:

- send us a recording of you signing your response. This should be no longer than 5 minutes. Suitable file formats are DVDs, wmv or QuickTime files; or
- upload a video of you signing your response directly to YouTube (or another hosting site) and send us the link.

A2.6 We will publish a transcript of any audio or video responses we receive (unless your response is confidential)

A2.7 We do not need a paper copy of your response as well as an electronic version. We will acknowledge receipt of a response submitted to us by email.

A2.8 You do not have to answer all the questions in the consultation if you do not have a view; a short response on just one point is fine. We also welcome joint responses.

A2.9 It would be helpful if your response could include direct answers to the questions asked in the consultation document. The questions are listed at Annex X. It would also help if you could explain why you hold your views, and what you think the effect of Ofcom's proposals would be.

A2.10 If you want to discuss the issues and questions raised in this consultation, please contact 1.4 GHz Authorisation Team by email to 1.4GHz.authorisation@ofcom.org.uk.

Confidentiality

A2.11 Consultations are more effective if we publish the responses before the consultation period closes. This can help people and organisations with limited resources or familiarity with the issues to respond in a more informed way. So, in the interests of transparency and good regulatory practice, and because we believe it is important that everyone who is interested in an issue can see other respondents' views, we usually publish responses on the Ofcom website at regular intervals during and after the consultation period.

A2.12 If you think your response should be kept confidential, please specify which part(s) this applies to and explain why. Please send any confidential sections as a separate annex. If you want your name, address, other contact details or job title to remain confidential, please provide them only in the cover sheet, so that we don't have to edit your response.

A2.13 If someone asks us to keep part or all of a response confidential, we will treat this request seriously and try to respect it. But sometimes we will need to publish all responses, including those that are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal obligations.

A2.14 To fulfil our pre-disclosure duty, we may share a copy of your response with the relevant government department before we publish it on our website.

A2.15 Please also note that copyright and all other intellectual property in responses will be assumed to be licensed to Ofcom to use. Ofcom's intellectual property rights are explained further in our Terms of Use.

Next steps

A2.16 Following this consultation period, Ofcom plans to publish a detailed statement on our proposals for making the upper block of 1.4 GHz spectrum available. If you wish, you can register to receive mail updates alerting you to new Ofcom publications.

Ofcom's consultation processes

A2.17 Ofcom aims to make responding to a consultation as easy as possible. For more information, please see our consultation principles in Annex A3.

A2.18 If you have any comments or suggestions on how we manage our consultations, please email us at consult@ofcom.org.uk. We particularly welcome ideas on how Ofcom could more effectively seek the views of groups or individuals, such as small businesses and residential consumers, who are less likely to give their opinions through a formal consultation.

A2.19 If you would like to discuss these issues, or Ofcom's consultation processes more generally, please contact the corporation secretary:

Corporation Secretary
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA
Email: corporationsecretary@ofcom.org.uk

A3. Ofcom's consultation principles

Ofcom has seven principles that it follows for every public written consultation:

Before the consultation

1. Wherever possible, we will hold informal talks with people and organisations before announcing a big consultation, to find out whether we are thinking along the right lines. If we do not have enough time to do this, we will hold an open meeting to explain our proposals, shortly after announcing the consultation.

During the consultation

2. We will be clear about whom we are consulting, why, on what questions and for how long.
3. We will make the consultation document as short and simple as possible, with an overview of no more than two pages. We will try to make it as easy as possible for people to give us a written response.
4. When setting the length of the consultation period, we will consider the nature of our proposals and their potential impact. We will always make clear the closing date for responses.
5. A person within Ofcom will be in charge of making sure we follow our own guidelines and aim to reach the largest possible number of people and organisations who may be interested in the outcome of our decisions. Ofcom's Consultation Champion is the main person to contact if you have views on the way we run our consultations.
6. If we are not able to follow any of these principles, we will explain why.

After the consultation

7. We think it is important that everyone who is interested in an issue can see other people's views, so we usually publish the responses on our website at regular intervals during and after the consultation period. After the consultation we will make our decisions and publish a statement explaining what we are going to do, and why, showing how respondents' views helped to shape these decisions.

A4. Consultation coversheet

Basic details

Consultation title:

To (Ofcom contact):

Name of respondent:

Representing (self or organisation/s):

Address (if not received by email):

Confidentiality

Please tick below what part of your response you consider is confidential, giving your reasons why

- Nothing ☐
- Name/contact details/job title ☐
- Whole response ☐
- Organisation ☐
- Part of the response ☐

If you selected 'Part of the response', please specify which parts:

If you want part of your response, your name or your organisation not to be published, can Ofcom still publish a reference to the contents of your response (including, for any confidential parts, a general summary that does not disclose the specific information or enable you to be identified)?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Declaration

I confirm that the correspondence supplied with this cover sheet is a formal consultation response that Ofcom can publish. However, in supplying this response, I understand that Ofcom may need to publish all responses, including those which are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal obligations. If I have sent my response by email, Ofcom can disregard any standard e-mail text about not disclosing email contents and attachments.

Ofcom aims to publish responses at regular intervals during and after the consultation period. If your response is non-confidential (in whole or in part), and you would prefer us to publish your response only once the consultation has ended, please tick here.

Name Signed (if hard copy)

A5. Consultation questions

Please tell us how you came across about this consultation.

- ☐ Email from Ofcom
- ☐ Saw it on social media
- ☐ Found it on Ofcom's website
- ☐ Found it on another website
- ☐ Heard about it on TV or radio
- ☐ Read about it in a newspaper or magazine
- ☐ Heard about it at an event
- ☐ Somebody told me or shared it with me
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Question 1: Do you agree with our assessment of these competition concerns, and our view that there is no need for specific competition measures? Please give reasons supported by evidence when providing your answers.